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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-20 and 24-26 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-6, 8-10, 15-17, 19, 20 AND 24 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 15-17, 19, 20 and 24 now stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Sasaki et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 herein to recite a liquid crystal device wherein the liquid crystal is divided into a plurality of pixels each having an active region, and the active region of each pixel *partially* overlaps with at least one of the protrusions protrusion. Specifically, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the feature that at *least one of the protrusions is limited to a peripheral area of the active region.*

Responding to applicants' previous arguments, the Examiner admits that *Acosta* does not teach the active region of each pixel *partially* overlapping with at least one of the protrusions as previously argued by the applicants. However, the Examiner contends that *Sasaki et al.* teaches a pixel region *partially* overlapping a protrusion 30, wherein the protrusion comprises a dot-like 56 serving as a nucleus. (O.A., p. 3).

The partial overlapping of the present invention, however, is different from what the Examiner considers to be partial overlapping in *Sasaki et al.* The present application describes the advantages of a protrusion which *partially* overlaps with the active region in order for the active region to experience sufficient influence. However, the application explains how the protrusions preferably are *not located totally within the active region* as this will cause aperture ratio and contrast ratio to suffer. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 17, ln. 15 to p. 18, ln. 2). In other words, at least one of the protrusions is

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partially overlapping the active region yet limited to a peripheral area of the active region. By limiting providing the protrusion to a peripheral area of the active region, the protrusion is able to exert sufficient influence on the active region yet avoid substantial reduction in the aperture and contrast ratios.

Fig. 3

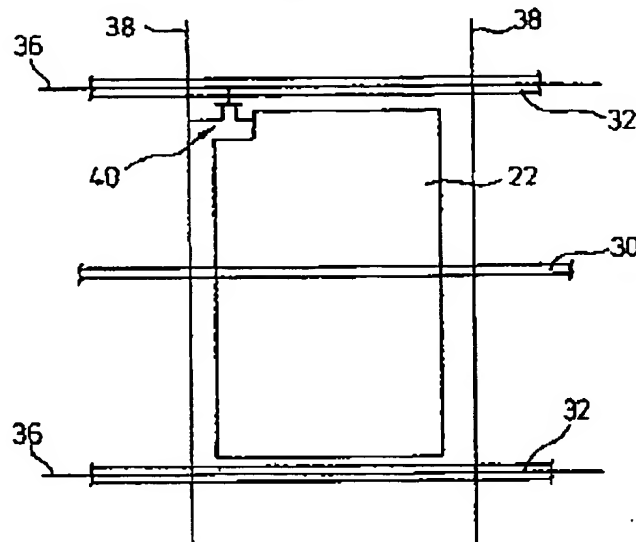


Fig. 3 of Sasaki et al.

Sasaki et al. teaches a projection 30 which traverses across the entire active region as illustrated in Fig. 3 (reproduced above). Sasaki et al., however, does not teach or suggest a protrusion 30 that is limited to a peripheral area of the active region as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, the teachings of Sasaki et al. are subject to the same reduction in aperture ratio and contrast ratio that the present invention seeks to avoid.

Thus, whether taken individually or in combination, the teachings of Acosta et al. and Sasaki et al. do not teach or suggest protrusions being limited to a peripheral area of the active region as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, neither Acosta et al. nor

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Sasaki et al. teach or suggest the advantages associated with the configuration recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 11-14, 18, 25 AND 26 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 12-14, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Sasaki et al.*, and further in view of *Funada et al.* Claims 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Sasaki et al.*, and further in view of *Ulrich et al.* Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 11-14, 18, 25 and 26 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and can be distinguished over *Acosta et al.* and *Sasaki et al.* for at least the same reasons. Moreover, neither *Ulrich et al.* nor *Funada et al.* makes up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Acosta et al.* and *Sasaki et al.* Thus, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

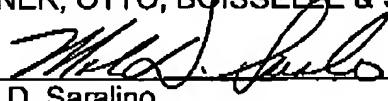
Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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